

|  | * | * CONTENTS | * | * |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Presidents Column | 1 | BEU for T/5 Machines | 5 | Romswitch News | 12 |
| New Officers | 2 | Alphacom Vs. 2040 | 6 | Nine Lives of Clive | 13 |
| M/C Class | 3 | Birth Announcement | 6 | T/S 1000 Reference | 14 |
| Tape Dubbing | 3 | New Products | 8 | Day of the Week Pgm. | 16 |
| Membership Profile | 4 | T/S 1000 Hardware Test | 9 | Why M/C? | 16 |
| New Products \& Rumors | 4 | BASICODE | 9 | Super BASIC Review | 17 |
| 2068 Renumbering | 5 | Telecomputing | is | Numerical Integration | 18 |
|  |  | Star SG 15 Review | 12 |  |  |

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Actions by the Menbers;
J've been using this space over the last fem aonths to point out the vitality of the Tinex-Sinclair "scene." Another vital side of what's happening are the newsletters, and this one (yes, us) in particular. Our articles are being picked up by outside user's groups, and being spread to the ir nembers. Mihaly Grell's Rotating 6lobe, Mike Morris' Keyboard scanning, and nore recently, Allan Pollock's Tinex interview and Roald Schrack's 30 Plotting progrin (among others) have spread the word of our group to a wider audience. Congratulations!

Other users groups have contributed nore than the ir share to the advancenent of T/S conputing. Sincus News has consistently run informative and probing pieces on the T/S operation. L.I.S.T. shows a consistent innovation in harduare projects. Triangle S.U.G., with the ir non-profit status, nails out a jan-packed legal sized letter. There are many others I haven't mentioned; this only mans that I can't keep track of then all - there are some other gens waiting out there.

If you want to see for yourself, show up on Monday nights at the hardcore comittee meeting. All the yar's neusletters fron other clubs will be there, and, if there's sonething that interests you......

Copies!
.......Jules Gesang has donated a copier to the club. l've got it going, and it's available to copy public domain
softuare listings and docunentation, or past newsletter articles fron CATS newsletter or others. THAN YOU JLLES!

In the aftermath of AERCO's presentation of their disc drive to the club, a number of nenbers got toget her and asseabled a group purchase of the AERCO drive and interface. They deserve congratulations - outside of a few tape purchases, this is the first grass-roots cooperation we've had! I'm looking foreward to the delivery of the goods, and a first-hand report on its utility. Don't forget the newsletter, guys!

The Hardore Comittee:
I don't care what you call it - I've tried "Executive Comittee," but I suspect that that's scared off potential attendees. For now, I'll try "Hardcore Comittee' to capture the infornal nature of the get togethers. It's held every Monday night at 760 Erie Ave, Takoma Park. My phone is 589-7407.

Last week, we tried out Ton Bent's new al conputer. We gave it a thorough going over, and a prelininary run through the four najor prograns that are included in the package. Its a well designed unit - the keyboard is easy to get used to, and the two built-in nicrodrives look sturdy and durable - just one noving part! It cones with a word processor, spreadsheet, filing progran, and chart producer. The chart producer is the best at showing off the immense graphics abilities of the aachine (you can only type so fast on a word processor, after all), and we had fun making up incredible graphs to test the auto-scaling feature of the bar chart. We did a quick comparison with a Kaypro 10, and it did as well as expected. A good aachine!

VEM DFFicErS
Muminimed

The nominating committee's slate for new club oficers, to take ofice July $1=t$, was read to the general meeting on May 11 th, as follows:

President: John Conger 1st Vice President: Jules Gesang 2nd Uice President: Tom Bent Sec'y/Treas: Sarah Fisher.

There were no nominations from the floor: Ruth Fegley moved that the nominations be closed; S. Fellerman seconded and the motion was carried by vice vote with none indicatng opposition.

Elections will take place at the June meeting. Absentee ballots by mail will be accepted by the Secretary until the June meeting time.

Conger accepted the nomination and expressed his delight that the three other very competent and experienced members have agreed to join the slate. With other interested and active members such as past president Hank Dickson, frequent columnist Allan Pollock and the many other contributors to our News Letter, the club has a good future before it.

Conger announced his intention to divide the News Letter chores between Mark Fisher as Editor and Jules Gesang as Publisher.

## CONTIBUTORS

| Ed Arnold | Sarah Fisher |
| :--- | :--- |
| Alex F. Burr | Jules Gesang |
| R. Caufman | Jim Mackenzie |
| John Conger | Ward Seguin |
| Hank Dickson | Bill Ware |
| Chuck Fink | Rick White |
| Mark Fisher |  |

## 1985

AD RATES CATS NEWSLETTER

|  | $1 X$ | $3 X$ | $6 X$ | $12 X$ |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| FUL PAGE | $\$ 100$ | 294 | 570 | 1080 |
| HALL PAGE | 55 | 161 | 313 | 594 |
| QUARTER PAGE | 30 | 88 | 171 | 324 |
| BUSINESS CARD | 15 | 43 | 81 | 155 |

( $7^{\prime \prime}$ WIDE BY $10^{\prime \prime}$ LONG MAXIMM SIZE. CAMERA READY MATERIAL IN BLACK AND WHITE.)

WE WILL MAIL YOUR ENCLOSURE.READY TO MAIL WITH NEWSLETTER. WE WILL CHARGE ACCORDING TO SIZE OF ENCLOSURE. ASK US FOR CWOTE AND NLMBER NEEDED. ( $8.5^{\prime \prime} \times 11^{\prime \prime}$ SIZE- $\$ 25$ PER ISSUE.)

N/L DEADLINE
MEETING DATE

June 17
July 19
August 16
September 14

June 8
July 13
August 10
September 14
October 12

## 

SUBMISSIONS for this newsletter are eagerly solicited. First priority will be given to member's submissions. Publication of material does not transfer rights from the author, in fact, it may establish priority.

Submissions may be reviews, articles on applications, programming techniques, hardware, or anything else you can imagine. Pertinent articles from other publications will also be considered.
Bring material to the meeting, or send it to PO box 725, Bladensburg, MD 20710. I would prefer material to be typed, single spaced, in $3 \%^{\prime \prime}$ columns - but don't break your back: the Xerox dosen't really care. Printouts from the 2040 printer are fine, but, use Radio Shack paper, and don't put scotch tape over the printing.

Permission is hereby granted for reprints of articles in nomprofit user group newsletters. Please give credit to CATS and the author.

The Cheuy Chase Library will host the MC/Assembly Language course on Saturday, May 25th from 2 to 4:30, and also Saturday June 1 st, same time. Application has been made for course continuation during three Saturdays each month through August. We will be notified at the first two meetings whether we are cleared to have the space more than once a month, which is normally the limit unless we receiiue special librarian sponsorships, which is in the mill.

The convenient location is four blocks south of the beltway on Connecticut Avenue. Going south from the beltway, it is next to the fire house on your left at the fourth set of traffic lights which should be flashing yellow. Make "U" turn at next street. Comming from the south, you will find the library just beyond the fire station at the flashing yellow lights a few blocks north of EastWest Highway (Route 418) on Conn. Ave.

The principal text will be "Programming the 280 " by Rodney Zaks. Try to find a copy at a Radio Shack store which has lowest price, otherwise Maryland Book Exchange carries it. (John Conger)

## TAFE DUETHE

Ey Hm hackenzie
I'Mery sory I fissed the last meetings I had tramportation proklems. I wil mate it up to sig at the mext meding= I wil brang two tape akout iE to 2 whmues each with procmems tor the TS Hod and aiso the Ehos thpe that has dubyd the mp meting = Hould like to point out that the success of this project entirelu sepends on mebbers comt ibutions Please bontact ham sul-Ebs-7407 or he Sul-4ge-9isg after 4 puin abut this.
ht the hext metime fill hate tore spare tape recorder for pequle to use, but remember it is aldate bet to use your out tape recorder: Hiso Itll hate some Ches A5 mintares for sale This tape ahking invelues a lot of equiplemt atout The diferent electricel cortas. I renil woult appeciate it if at least some pape will qut to met their tape rec ders on butteries.

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## Puzzle:

Write a short basic program that will print to the screen:
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(No fair using " $1,1,1,2,2,2,3,3,3$ ")
Write a short program that will accept a string input, then spell it backwards on the screen. eg: Input "Brown", prints "nworB"

I'll cover these at the meeting.

C.A.T.S. 3 Newsletter

An Interestimg
Membership Profile
At the April meeting, brief autobiographies were submitted by 36 of the 40 plus attendees, which had been requested to help plan meeting agendas and the thrust of the News Letter. The results were interesting and helpful to the editor and the officers of your club.

Twenty five had strong technical backgrounds from PhD in physics to TV repair, and included several electrical engineers. Nine were in some nontechnical business and two were students.

Fourteen have had experience with mainframes or minis, some going back over twenty years. Sixteen indicated some knowledge of high level languages other than BASIC:- Pacal, Fortran, Cobol, IBM assembly language and five show Machine Code training. Eleven show graduate degrees or engineering. Seven have Bachelor degrees in nontechnical subjects. Eight are retired. Eight work in government. Five are self-employed.

Twenty eight have one or more T/S1000's; twenty seven have the $T / S 2068$ (most have both).

The equipment list is not so clear but only two show modons, three have Commodore 64 's and three have 64 K memories (I am sure there are more).

The comments indicate strong interest in hardware projects and Tom Bent has expressed interest in heading up such ativity, perhaps doing machine modifications $\langle 2068$ ROM switch installation?)

It also seems possible that resignations over the years have been heavily representative of business or nontechnical interests, since most users groups are more heavily weighted toward those activities than we seem to be, if the April attendess are a fair sample of our total membership. At any rate your officers, editor and the new administration will make an effort at meetings and in the News Letter to better meet the needs of, and at a level of approach somewhat more in tune with, beginners and business people. (John Conger)

A Frogramming Tif Revi三ited

The Fpri issue certied a renumberifg program for the TE－1000 for z－8i，bu mart Fischet bee page 1s of the issue for his diedussion and Fage 17 for the Example．This routine uil bork for the Ebes atso if you thange line gobd． In Hick E Example，the yalue of x＝16509 ffor the TS－1000）is the starting address bf the bssit Frogram in memory＝This is explained irn the manuat on Fege 18\％．

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## UNCLASSIFIED

FOR SALE：TS1000，16K RAM，and 2040 printer－$\$ 75$. Also Timex books at half price．Call Cy－ 493－8661．

FOR SALE：TS1000 set，including 16K memory， thermal printer，sme software，paper， magazines，books and－best of all－a Byte－Back II Modem with software and manual． Negotiations start at $\$ 75$ ．Call Walter at （703）860－5809．

FOR SALE：TS1000 w／16K RAM module； 2040 printer；
Programs－WordSinc II．3，Electric Cost Analyzer，Vu－Calc，Solar Water heater；also Morse，Adamson et al．The Essential Guide to T／S Home Comouters．All complete in original boxes．Call 588－4107 after 6：30，SAT，or SUN．


 rormall do dos mat work with a $64 k$ EAM．Houryer，thest wat be mate to wort together bu remownice cus cs． and CE from the FiG board inside the TE EG40．But EwEん after thet worts LPEINT does mot work from the kestoorad．This．i：areal incorveriance wher treding to urite a Frogram aontaining LPEIUT with a G4t RAM gttached．The＂MEREE＂ program that I passed out at the F゙etruaty meeting ean be used to EOPG Frewdously＝tored LFRIHT code from another FiAM ofer品tirg at B－16K into the $16-32 \mathrm{BK}$ EASIC prograb ereag as ane solution．

But the Alphacom ze Frinter has neither of these dissumantsaess and othermise it is identigal to



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You are indeed correct that Computers and Electronics magazine died the forrible and long overdue death it so rightfully deserved （＂News Dest．＂March 18，1985）．But Popular Electronics stil lives！

Several of the original Popular＂goos guys＂are now pubishing Modorn Elfciron－ irs，which is full of the traditiomal older hands－on clectronic construction stuff，low－ cost kits，easily uaderstond tutorials，the whole bit．Many of the original authorsare back．including Forrest Mims．Marcia Swampfelder，Stan Prentiss，Len Fildman， myself，and bumhes more．Modem E＇cc－ tronics is at 76 N ．Bromdway，Hickorihe，N 11801：（516）681－2922．
infowole $5 / 7$
Don Lancaster
Theicher，AZ

One of our members chose this way to announce a recent happy event．

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MODEM MD-28 for $2 \times 81,7 S 1100, T S 1511$
MD-68 for TS2168

* upload and domeload text to and from memory and tape
* 301 baud - word length, parity, etc. selectable
- direct connect with phone load for clear commnication $\$ 5$ hour compuserve starter kit available separately

く4K MEMORY UH-64 for 2XB1,TSIOM EXPAN YOUR TMEXSIMCLAIR TO ITS FULLEST PUTETIAL NOT AMAILABLE FOR TS2e68
\# 8-10K area selectable in 2 K increments. ${ }^{2}$ battery back up to stop annoying crashes

* eprom socket for preprograned eproas ( 2 K and 4K)
* row-ran transfer for machine code buffs
* reset switch which only resets the 16 to 32 K area
* this is not a nonvolatile ra!

CONTRROLLER 88-1 for $2 \times 81$, TS1001,TS1501明-68 for T52068
\# 8 independent relays

- 8 led status indicators to monitor status of relays
* analog to digital converter sold separately to allom controller to measure voltages

| $R S-232$ | RS-232 for 2XB1,TS1001,TS1501 | Your timex sinclair can operate full size rs-232 TyPE |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | RS-232-68 for TS2068 | PRINTERS |

* cable and software sold separately
* C.ITOH 750LAR serial printer available separately

PARALLEEL PARMLLEL 1001 for $2 \times 81, T S 1068,7 S 1588$ PARALLEL 2068 for TS2168

- 5ft cable and softuare provided

YOUR TIMEX SINCLAIR CAN OPEBATE FULL SIzE centronics pampllel type printers

- C.ITOH 75eap parallel printer available separately

90 DAY WARRENTY ON ALL MODULES
Any hardare module may be returned for a full refund within 11 days of receipt.
BrTE-eaCK offers a few hardnare kits for kit builders. Our kits require excellent soldering ability. Kits include a high quality printed circuit board and all of the parts.
Kits have a 91 day warrenty on parts only. Kits may not be returned for a refund once they have been started.
TELEPHONE <803) 532-5812


NEW PRODUCT ANNOUNCEMENT

RAMEX International and NOVELSOFT are pleased to announce a truly signifigant event in 2068 graphics!
A-R-T-W-O-R-X
written by David C. Ridge
ARTWORX is the finest, most comprehensive artistic graphics program available for your 2068!

Scan the impressive list of features below and I'm sure you will agree that these words have meaning!
Free hand SKETCH with joystick with up to 64 combinations of VELOCITY, DENSITY, and BRUSH!
SPRAY paint simulation!
FILL command for any shape!
Draws lines at any angle using STRING, DEFINE, or RADIAL!
Commands for CIRCLE, ARC, and ELLIPSE. Yes ELLIPSE!
RELOCATE, DUPLICATE, or ROTATE any image!
Four different TEXT fonts on the screen!
The most comprehensive UGD designer ever created for the 2068, with storage for 84 UDG!
Four different erasers. GLOBAL WINDOW, COARSE and FINE!
Supports the 2040 and the TASMAN i/f
MAGNIFY and COMPRESS any image in $2 x$ steps!
.ooocand many more.
Cassette-\$19.95 Disc- $\mathbf{\$ 2 4 . 9 5}$
New \# for RAMEX is (313) 781-5800.
The author of ARTWORX, David Ridge, can be reached on CompuServe 70416,1435.
[Koala Pad compatibility? ED.]

Help CATS, Help SYNCWARE.... Help Yourself!
CATS has been selected to act as one of the judging clubs for SYNCWARE NEWS' software contest. We need volunteer judges to look at some of the most innovative new programs from all over the country, and select the best. These are all public domain, and CATS Newsletter will be reprinting some of the submissions. Judges will get first crack at seeing these programs, and, perhaps, be able to pick up some programming tips on their own. Contact me at 589-7407 if you're interested.

SUM - WARE is now stocking the SILVER AVENGER from TIMEX of Portugal. The unit is a modified 2068. It includes both Timex and Spectrum ROMs! The rear port has a Spectrum pin configuration, allowing for easy use of Spectrum hardware. It runs direct on its own 110 V power supply. Limited introductory price $\$ 159.95+5 \%$ SRH

Also available from SUM-WARE: the TIMEX Disc Drive System! This unit includes a Hitachi $3.5^{\prime \prime}$ Drive, Interface, Controller, Power supply, cables, and instructions. It will run on a U.S. 2068, SILVER AVENGER, or SPECTRUM PLUS, through one of the three different interfates available (you must specify which system you have). Available NOW !!! Introductory price $\$ 269.95+5 \%$ S\&H

Send large SASE for complete information on these and other Sinclair related hardware and software. SUM-WARE
810 Mammot Rd.
Alden NY 14004
(716) 547-2273

Note: the above items are reproduced from distributor's announcements; no verification of claims has been made. Ed.
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## Sinclair Science Fair Standouts at CATS

During the 1985 Prince George＇s Area Science Fair held last April at P．G．Community College，two outstanding exhibits used Sinclair computers as integral parts of their displays．The exhibitors were：

> MIKE O'NEILL, Bowie H.S.
> "Computer Control of Outside Devices"
> (Mathematics and Computers)

RICK COVELL，Oxon Hill H．S．
＂Robotics Via Computer Control＂
（Engineering）
Both did well in extremely tough competition， receiving recognition from various professional societies．MIKE O＇NEILL also received an Honorable Mention in Mathematics and Computers，which meant he placed in the top $50 \%$ of the entrants in his category．

CATS is fortunate that MIKE and RICK have agreed to appear at the June meeting to display their exhibits and talk about their projects with us． Seated at a table on the stage，they will give us a ＂NASA－style＂de－briefing while answering questions about how to put together a science fair activity integrating a Sinclair computer．They will also tell us what they have been working on since the Area Science Fair ended．

We look forward to this interesting and informative event，and the chance to give these creative students some of the recognition and appreciation they so richly deserve．

## Hank Dickson



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763-57-5171
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## EASICDDE

## A Plea for Information

Marty Jeski，of the L．I．S．T．group，has been trying to implement BASICODE．This is a standard for software exchange between 20 brands of computers，supported by Radio Netherlands and the Basicode Foundation，Eindhoven，The Netherlands． BASIC programs are transmitted，either on tape or over the air，in a common format，and translated for particular machines by a dedicated translation program for each machine．Marty wants to know when they are on the air．The manual says that programs are transmitted over BBC 4 at 200 kHz ，on their ＂chip shop＂programme，Sun．，Mon．，Wed．，and Thurs．at 00．23 GMT：but he hasn＇t been able to pick it up．The Dutch embassy in NY wasn＇t able to help，and Marty hoped that one of our HAMs could contact Holland directly．Send any information you might have to me and Marty Jeski， 16 Cold Spring Hills Rd．，Huntington，N．Y． 11743.

Marty sent the translations tape and documentation：if we can get this going，it would provide a way to translate your programs to junior＇s Commodore．Now，there＇s a good subject for a Hardcore Committee meeting！

Continued from page 1 ．
Last Meeting．．．．
I had other camitnents，so this isn＇t a first－hand report．David Urrutia arranged for a talk by a nember of his stock analysis users group．This speaker gave an ouerview of his method of stock analysis，and sane approaches to writing stock analysis progras．Following that，Jules Gesang gave a presentation on MOOEMs，and the ir operation．

## And Next．

Hank Dickson has persuaded two teenagers who won the local science fair using $T / S$ 1880＇s，to cone and show us what they＇ve done．Perhaps they＇ll join the group！Tony Brooks has hand－imported a brace of nicrodrives and an Interface 1 for his 2068，and he＇ll be showing us how that goes．I know it＇ll be nice outside，but coae on down anymay！
Newsletter
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Call (800) 336-336ti with your Claim \#7779601.
In Virginia or outside the continental UlS. call (703) $821-6666$.





 Gosmbul
proctided THIS OFFER EXPIKES IUNE 15. 1985. CALL 800-336-3366 NOW!
Enter your new


Enter y our new
ID
System

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SFELIAL! SFEEIAL! EPECIAL!
TO JOIN THE SOURCE AT A REDUCED MEMBERSHIP COST OF $\$ 29.50$ INSTEAD OF 39.95,
SEND A SASE TO GESANG ASSOCIATES, PO BOX 452 , RANDALLSTONN, MD $21133, ~ S O$ AS. TO
RECEIVE THE ABOVE CERTIFICATE BEFORE JUNE $12 T H$ TO TAKE ADUANTAGE OF THIS
SPECIAL.

IN ADDITIGN, ANY MEMBER WHO HAS PURCHASED A MODEM FROM GESANG ASSOC:ATES OR DOES SO BY JUNE 15 TH, 1985 WILL RECEIUE A CREDIT OF $\$ 7.75$ TOWARD A FREE HOUR ON THE SOURCE.

THE ONE HOUR FREE IS WORTH 77.75 : THE USER'S GUIDE IS WORTH 生9.95, LEAUING A
TOTAL COST OF $\$ 2.20$ TO BEGIN ENJOYING THE GREAT WORLD DF THE SOURCE.
THIS IS A CONTINUATION GF GOODIES GESANG ASSOCIATES HAS BROUGH: TG IN THE PAST.

IF YOU HAVE ANY RUESTIUNS PLEASE GALL $301-922-0767$ FROM 7 TO 10 PM .

 Comparison 300－us 1200－BAiJD MODEM．

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phone booths. or anywhere phone lines are hard-wired and not cornected with detachable modular jacks．Thus，


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TO BE CONTINLED：Communications Software．Features to conider in a modem．TIME IS MONEY！Operating Cost

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YOU can＇t live without your telephone．And you＇re getting pretty attached to your computer．What if you hooked the two together？Just think－－you could send your favorite program to a friend！Play．a game with your Grandmother，who lives in Hawail！The necessary link？A MODEM．UNLIKE prices of computers，printers， dropped much during the past vear．Modemem han cost as much as or more than the computers they work with， probably because they ve been aimed，to date，more at the business market than the home market．BUT the recent introduction of new high－speed modems for business use means that prices on 300 and 1200 baud modems should begin to drop．After all，a modem consists of a single chip，compared to the dozens of chips and circuit boards needed to make a computer，and is relatively easy to assemble．As it is，there are


A MODEM connects your computer to the telephane lines－－the same telephone lines you use to order a digital signal）．Then，the modem at the other end translates the analog signal back to digital so the other computer can understand it．Think of a modem as an interpreter at the U．N．Better yet，don＇t think about it at all．Just plug it in and follow directions！

WHAT YOU NEED TO CONNECT To install a modem and successfully＂telecommunicate＂you need，besides your computer，four things：1．A modem，2．A cable betweer the modern and the serial port on your computer；or a plug－in slot for the modem．3．A standard telephone line with a modular plug epreferable）or a standard telephone handset，4．Communications software

NEW GENERATION OF PRINTERS
A new generation of dot matrix printers, heralded over a year ago by Epson's L01500, is now on the market. New on this writer's desk is a Star SG 15, recent upgrage of the Gemini 15. Listing at just under $9500-$ and available for $\$ 100$ less than that--these printers and their SE 10 "twins," came equipped with ultra hi-res graphics and near letter quality print. This itam is printed in the later. The SG 15 also comes with a 16 K buffer. Dnce in print mode, unless the item printed is larger than the buffer, the computer is free to go, or be turned off.

Software available to this writer does not allow adequate demonstration of the SG 15's "tales of joy and wonderment!" The software does not support the esc. codes in which proportional spacing, right justification, centaring, enhanced print, and change of print mid-text are coded.

One smali item Ehat helped sell this machine is its ribbon. It's similar to a typewriter ribban that sells for three dollars, not the six to ten dallars requirad Ear ribbon replacement on some printers.

One shortcoming, from this view, is an absence, in the carriage area, of any callibration to indicate where it prints column 0. One is stuck with locating paper by guess, no doubt more educated all the while by trial and error!

There was a malfunction and replacement which left an early bad taste, but otherwise the Star SG 15 has been a joy promising further "tales of wonderment" once software is availabla to da the tricks!

## Bill Ware



THE NINE LIVES OF CLIVE edited from: The Sunday Times(London), 28 April 1985

Fame and fortune come in many guises. Last month Sir Clive received the ultimate accolade that can be bestowed on an electronics wizard: he became the living subject of a computer game. The game is called A Day in The Life and is produced by a small software house called Micromega.

Sinclair has become a legend as one of the most prodigious inventors since Leonardo. The first pocket calculator, one of the first digital watches, the first sub $\leqslant 100$ home computer and the first pocket TV set - Sinclair has fairly hurled his inventions into gaps in the market place. Thanks to the Spectum home computer, his name is as familiar to a generation under 18 yours old as Superman (ED: and just a few of us old folks, too).

The Sinclair mpire today consists of two quite separate companies. One, Sinclair Research, makes the computers and the tiny flat-screen TV. The other company, Sinclair Vehicles, was founded to make the C5 electric trike, launched earlier this year.

Sinclair's QL, introduced last yaar, got off to a very slow start. Sinclair says 60,000 have now been sold - more than some have estimated. The QL is now being relaunched and goes into the States (this) month. "We have had 26,000 enquiries as the result of one review," claims Sinclair. He discusses his finances with little relish. It is not that he is unduly secretive, but that such mundane mattery are a tedious diversion from his self-appointed mission in life: to bring technology to the masses at affordable prices. He has been described as the Freddy Laker of electronics, and his grasp of financial small print or market demand may be hazy - but his enthusiasm for innovation is boundless.

A quixotic business style still reigns at Sinclair. Raymond Yap, a longstanding business acquaintance, and a managing director of one of Sinclair's contractors, says that Sinclair is shrewd indeed, but he is often "led by his ego and his desire to see products getting into the market. He lacks that detached logic that might hold him back from some of the less commercially viable ideas". Some would say that to launch the C5, an open-topped vehicle, in Britain in January was an example of just such impetuousness.

Sinclair's career started in technical journalism, but soon graduated to commerce. He bought reject chips from Plessy, tested them, and sold the good ones. In the 1960's he rescued
Cambridge Consultants from a takeover bid. A decade later, the infamous "black watch" came close to bringing Sinclair Radionies to its knees. Little has gone smoothly, and with the exception of the Spectrum, none of Sinclair's many gadgets has achieved true, untrammeled sucess.
"We only gat involved in computers", says Sinclair, "in order to fund the rest of the business". Now the tail has grown mightily and wags the dog fearlessly. Some of his most dedicated fans would like him to amputate that tail and return to what he does best.
"Clive should spend his time inventing new products - an area where he is an undisputed genius - not rurning around controlling a business with $\$ 100 \mathrm{~m}$ turnover and volatile profits", said one. The logic is compelling. It leads inevitably to a shedding of the computer business and a return to the world of research and development. But where that logic leads, Sinclair is clearly not disposed to follow. He likes to call the shots and he values a direct line to his public. He isn't going to give those up easily.

Here＇s a reference card of useful information for your TS1000－

Jim Mackenzie

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## WHY MACHINE CODE?

At least twice in prior
administrations attempts have been made to start Machine code classes, but they never got off the ground. No one seems sure why. By the time you get this News Letter we should have had two such classes at Cheuy Chase Library, May 25th and june 1st. Application has been made to hold three metings month there, which takes special ok's and a bit of red tape cutting. If successful, it will be announced at the regular June meeting.

In any event, we WILL have MC meetings. Several members have already bought or otherwise acquired the Zaks book:
"Programming the 280 ".
But WHY MC? First, it is fast, fast, fast. If you want to modify existing MC programs, its the only way to go. If, for no other reason, you want to know how and why the computer works, really, you have to understand how the microprocessor manipulates all those binary bits of 0 's and 1 's in 22 different registers and the stacks. Further, you have to undrstand the make up of the ROM, memory organization and system variables, not to speak of the floating point calculator.

Come take the course with us and learn what computng is all about, even if you don't plan to become the worlds best programmer. It's interesting and satisfying. (John Conger)
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SuperBASIC<br>BASIC for the QL Alex. F. Burr K5XY

SuperBASIC is the name Sinclair has given to the programing language which comes with the QL. It is more that just Microsoft BASIC with expansions and it has many significant differences from the BASIC used by the T/S 1590 or even the $T / S$ 2068. First of all, single keystroke command entry has been eliminated in favor of a simplified keyboard. But this change is only the most noticable one.

Another very noticeable change is in the punctuation used. Many times when two words would logically be used in a command, an underscore is used to join these words, into a single word command, but with the appearance and readability of two words. For example, LINE is a graphics command which draws a line in absolute coordinates. To draw the line in relative coordinates, the command is LINE_R. Furthermore the examples make frequent use of this concept in the naming of variables as in READ test-data or PRINT error_count. This effect takes a little getting used to but. seems like a good idea and should make for more readable programs.

The biggest change is a more fundamental one. BASIC was designed to be a simple, easy to learn language. As such, it had severe limitations. Since its beginning, expansions have tried to overcome its inflexibilities but at the expense of complications. Now the latest programing enthusiasm is for structured programing as exermpilfied by many PASCAL programs. Several new commands added to SuperBASIC permit many of the ideas of structured programming. In particuiar, subroutines and loops can be named and called by these names.

One of these new commands is DEFine PROCedure. (Note that these words are a combination of upper case and lower case. That is not an example of my bad typing. The whole word is the proper command and the upper case part is the acceptable abbreviation.) This command is really much like a subroutine. In fact, the manual recommends that GOSUB not be usedi although for compatibility reasons the GOSUB command is available. The DEFine PROCedure is much more flexible. It can even pass parameters just as in FORTRAN. The main advantage of the new way of doing things is that the subroutines can be named so that their functions can be easily recognized. FOR loops are also named and ended with an END FOR statement. (NEXT is used to cause only part of a loop to repeat). A third new command is REPeat which does just that for a group of lines until some condition causes an EXIT. All these new commands make SuperBASIC harder to learn. Fortunately you do not have to make use of these commands. The old, easy to learn ones are still there for the most part and can be used until the demands for flexibility force you to learn new methods.

SuperBASIC includes most of functions, procedures, and constructs found i other dialects of BASIC. Many of these functions are superfluous in SuperBASIC but are included for compatibility reasons:
GOTO
gosub
ON .. GOTO
use IF, REPeat, etc use DEFine PROCedure
use SELect
ON .. GOSUB . . Use SELect
Some BASIC commands are included in SuperBASIC and still have a genuine use:
READ
RESTORE
PEEK
LIST
RUN
CLEAR

## DATA <br> REMark <br> POKE <br> NEW <br> STOP

Some commands appear not to be present. They can always be obtained by using a more general function. For example, there are no LPRINT or LLIST statements in SuperBASIC but output can be directed to a printer by opening the relevant channel and using PRINT or LIST.
LPRINT use PRINT
LLIST use LIST *
UAL not required
STR not required
IN not applicable to 68968
OUT not applicable to 68808
All in all, there are 107 distinct commands or keywords as they are called. Actually, if variants of these keywords or closely related ones, are counted you get quite a few more than
107. The manual divides them up into 28 haphazard and confusing groups. If one tries for fewer and more independent groups, one can divide the keywords into the categories listed in the following table.

Category Number of Keywords

| Basic commands | 26 |
| :--- | :---: |
| INPUT/OUTPUT | 22 |
| Math functions | 28 |
| Window commands | 14 |
| Procedures | 12 |
| Graphic commands | 9 |
| Clock | 4 |

In summary one can say that SuperBASIC is much more flexible and stucturable than the usual BASIC. Unfortunately (and inevitably) it will be harder to learn. The language is certainly sophisticated enough for serious programming.

Q2X, December 1984


# Capitol Area Timex/Sinclair Users' Group P.O.Box 725 

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CATS Newsletter
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The next meeting of CATS will be held on: Saturday, June 8, 1985 2 P.M.

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> DATED MATERIAL


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